

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /038 W  
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R 172102Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2322  
INFO USDOC WASHDC  
FAA WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, BEXP, BENC, VE  
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: LONG-RANGE RADAR PROGRAM

REF: 75-CARACAS 10921

1. THE SO-CALLED NATIONAL AIRSPACE CONTROL PROGRAM FIRST ANNOUNCED IN 1975 AND NOW GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE LONG-RANGE RADAR PROGRAM, STILL APPEARS TO BE IN THE DEFINITION TAGE. HOWEVER, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND SYSTEMS (DIS) OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AERONAUTICS INSISTS THAT PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS WILL MOST LIKELY BEGIN IN JUNE OF THIS YEAR. SPERRY UNIVAC CONFIRMS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD THIS ALSO.

2. THE SYSTEM, AS ORGINALLY INTENDED, WAS TO PROVIDE FULL RADAR COVERAGE OF VENEZUELA BY A SYSTEM OF FOUR TO SIX LARGE RADARS (250 MILE RANGE), FEEDING DATE INTO A JOINT CIVILIAN/MILITARY CONTROL CENTER TO BE BUILT NEAR CARACAS. UP TO TWELVE TERMINAL RADARS AT VARIOUS AIRPORTS WERE INTENDED TO ACT AS GAP FILLERS. SINCE THEN, FOUR OF THE SMALL RADARS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED FROM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS AND ARE ABOUT TO BE DELIVERED. THEY ARE TO BE INSTALLED AT MARGARITA INTERNATIONAL, BARCELONA, BARQUISIMETO, AND  
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LIBERATADOR AIRBASE. TALKS ARE UNDERWAY TO BUY ANOTHER TEXAS INSTRUMENTS UNIT TO BE SITED AT MAIQUETIA, REMOVING THE BRITISH PLESSEY PRIMARY RADAR FOR USE ELSEWHERE. THE PLESSEY BEACON SYSTEM (SECONDARY RADAR) IS TO REMAIN, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, AS TO THE TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY OF THAT DECISION. THE SELENIA (ITALY) TERMINAL RADAR AT MARACAIBO STILL IS NOT IN OPERATION AFTER APPROXIMATELY SIX YEARS OF ITS PURCHASE.

DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDERWAY TO REPLACE THIS UNIT ALSO BY A TEXAS INSTRUMENTS RADAR.

3. AS TO THE LONG-RANGE ASPECT OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL RADAR PROGRAM, THE DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING AND SYSTEMS HAS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH ANY INTENTION TO INSTALL SUCH AN ELABORATE AND EXPENSIVE SYSTEM WITH BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY CAPABILITY. HE APPEARS TO BE PUSHING FOR BEACON SYSTEMS ONLY, WITH THE PRIMARY RADAR TO BE ADDED LATER. RADAR MANUFACTURERS CLAIM, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD PROVIDE ONLY A MINIMAL SAVINGS IN RELATION TO THE REPRODUCTION COST OF A FULL SYSTEM. THE MILITARY, MOREOVER, AND THE CHIEF OF THE RADAR DIVISION UNDER THE DIS, APPEAR TO BE PUSHING FOR THE FULL SYSTEM.

4. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHICH METHOD OF PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION THE DIS INTENDS TO CHOOSE, ALTHOUGH THE TREND OF THINKING LATELY APPEARS TO BE IN FAVOR OF TURNKEY PURCHASE AFTER PRE-QUALIFICATION AND PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL TENDER.

5. IN THE ABSENCE OF A DECISION AS TO WHICH SYSTEM TO ADOPT, HOW MANY RADARS TO BUY AND THE METHOD OF PURCHASE TO BE USED, IT APPEARS THAT THE PREPARATION OF THE SPECIFICATIONS IS LAGGING BEHIND THE TIMEFRAME ESTABLISHED AT THE POLICY LEVEL, WHICH CONTEMPLATES COMPLETION OF CONTRACTUAL PREPARATIONS FOR THIS PURCHASE (AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT) BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN DECEMBER OF THIS-YEAR. THIS DIS FEELS, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OF THE CONSULTING GROUPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS OFFICE WOULD BE ABLE TO PREPARE ENGINEERING SPECS IN TEAMS, SINCE CONSIDERABLE PRELIMINARY WORK ALREADY HAS BEEN DONE BY HIS OFFICE AND BY THE FAA.

6. BIDDERS FOR THIS SYSTEM WOULD PROBABLY BE VARIOUS COMPANIES FROM THE U.S., THOMPSON-CSF FROM FRANCE, SELENIA FROM ITALY, NEC FROM JAPAN, PLESSEY FROM THE UK, TELEFUNKEN FROM GERMANY, AND PHILIPS FROM THE NETHERLANDS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RADAR EQUIPMENT, PROPOSALS (BID)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR PROJECT: LONG-RANGE RADAR PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** EAIR, BEXP, BENC, VE, US, FR, IT, JA, UK, GE, NL, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, LONG RANGE RADAR PROGRAM  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014